

INFORMATION DESK

A Source of Authors and Dates
for Family Names of Gastropods

BY

JOSEPH ROSEWATER

Invertebrate Zoology - Mollusca
National Museum of Natural History
Washington, D. C. 20560

THE NECESSITY for observing priority in zoological family name usage (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 1964, Article 23 c, d; Article 36) has caused some diligent taxonomists to do a great deal of literature searching to discover the oldest family group name for a taxon. Since this is a comparatively new requirement, which some workers observe and some ignore - there is no orderly way to look up this information other than laboriously going over likely references in a hit or miss fashion.

For bivalves the problem has been solved with the publication of the "Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology Part N, Mollusca 6 (1-3), (1969-1971)" as authors and dates of taxa above generic level are supplied. For gastropods, only a small percentage of the families has been completed in "Treatise, Part I, Mollusca 1 (1960)", covering some gastropods, chitons, scaphopods, and monoplacophorans. Some help is at hand at least for Recent families in the form of the French "Traité de Zoologie, Anatomie, Systématique, Biologie, vol. 5, Mollusques: Gastéropodes et Scaphopodes (Fascicule 3), Paris (1968)."

In the systematic section of this work by André Franc, and in the case of the scaphopods, co-author E. Fischer-Piette, authors and dates are supplied for taxa of ordinal rank and below, including superfamilies and families. One must search a bit for authors and dates of the classes and subclasses; however, they also are supplied at the beginnings of the appropriate sections. Franc gave no indication that I could find on the source of his data. In many cases data agree with those given in the complete "Treatise" sections on gastropods, but in a few cases differences are noted, possibly the result of independent research on Franc's part.

The information supplied in the "Traité" may serve as a starting point for the worker who is revising a group in his search for the earliest author of a family, and as a quotable reference for the more casual researcher who

needs a rapid and probably credible source for this information. It should be noted that Drs. Franc and Fischer-Piette produced comparable works on the bivalved Mollusca, the Aplacophora and Polyplacophora, and H. Lemche and K. G. Wingstrand on the Monoplacophora in the "Traité" vol. 5 (fascicule 2), (1960), wherein similar data may be found, which, however largely have been superseded by the information in the cited "Treatise" volumes.

Literature Cited

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Differentiation:

The Meaning of ICZN Article 13 (a) (i)

BY

EUGENE V. COAN

Research Associate, Invertebrate Zoology
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
Los Angeles, California 90007

HOW WIDELY AND CAREFULLY to compare a new species (or any other taxon) with other taxa is one of the more difficult decisions facing a potential author. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (STOLL, *et al.*, 1964) provides some guidance in this regard, but this guidance requires some explanation and interpretation.

The implications of ICZN Article 13 (a) (i) to authors wishing to propose new taxa, such as species or genera, are of great importance (MAYR, 1969). Unfortunately, this